AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended)   A method for providing a Virtual Private Network (VPN) service, comprising the steps of:

A.   receiving a call request for a VPN service from a user terminal, initiating a VPN service logic, and determining whether the user terminal has customized a prepaid service by a Service Control Point (SCP);

B.   invoking a fee-applying interface preset in a prepaid service logic for applying fees, providing, by the VPN service logic, the VPN service to the user terminal, charging the VPN service, and invoking a fee-deducting interface preset in the [[a]] prepaid service logic for deducting, according to a result of the charging, from a prepaid account.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

before initiating the VPN service logic, implementing a VPN service authentication for the user terminal, if the user terminal passes the VPN service authentication, executing the initiating of the VPN service logic.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of A is followed by a further step of implementing prepaid service authentication for the user terminal, if the user terminal passes the prepaid service authentication, executing step **B,** otherwise returning a prepaid service authentication failure message to the user terminal.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of implementing prepaid service authentication for the user terminal is followed by a further step of presetting an authentication interface for the prepaid service, wherein implementing the prepaid service authentication for the user terminal is implemented by invoking the authentication interface set for the prepaid service.

13.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 9 wherein the step of implementing the prepaid service authentication for the user terminal comprises: judging

whether the user terminal's corresponding prepaid account is valid and judging whether there is sufficient balance in the prepaid account.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of presetting a fee-applying interface for the prepaid service, before providing the VPN service for the user terminal.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of B comprises:

the VPN service logic invoking the fee-applying interface, the prepaid service logic applying for fees and notifying the VPN service logic of a fee application result; and

the VPN service logic judging whether the fee is obtained according to the fee application result, if so, providing the VPN service for the user terminal according to the fee application result.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of presetting a fee-deducting interface for the prepaid service.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 9, wherein the deducting operation in step B comprises:

the VPN service logic invoking the fee-deducting interface and sending a fee-deducting request to the prepaid service logic, the prepaid service logic deducting the result of the charging from the applied fee after receiving the request.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of presetting a fee-returning interface for the prepaid service.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, after the deducting operation in step B, the method further comprising: the VPN service logic judging whether there is remaining fee in the applied fee, if so, invoking the fee-returning interface and returning the remaining fee to the prepaid account corresponding to the user terminal.